



Meeting of the Public Health Expert Group

Welcome and Introduction

DG SANTE
European Commission
6 December 2023

Health and
Food Safety

Today's agenda

Welcome and introduction

Progress on work of subgroups under PHEG

Priority setting exercise

Updates from other services

Tour de table

AOB



Progress on work of subgroups under PHEG

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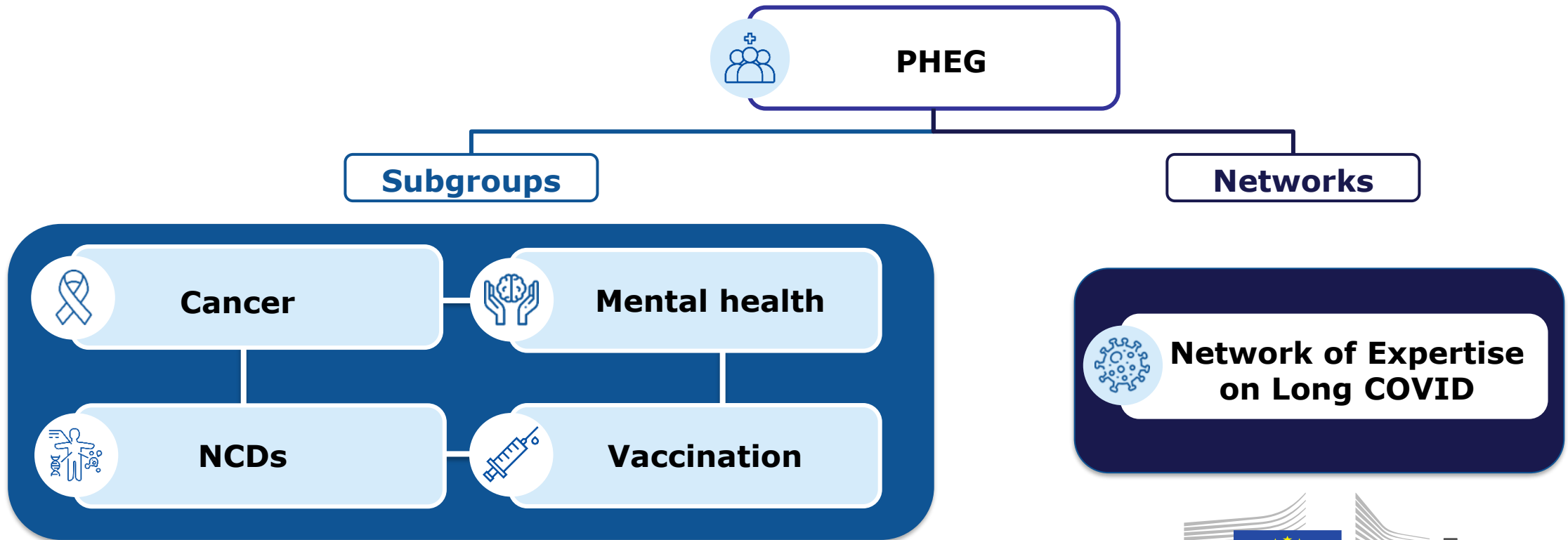
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PHEG and Subgroups

Established by a Commission Decision in December 2022, the **Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG)** replaced the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of NCDs. The PHEG monitors the work of the subgroups and provides steer for their actions.

PHEG is also invited to comment on the work of the **Network of Expertise on Long Covid**.

PHEG and its Subgroups



PHEG subgroup on cancer

Supports implementation of Cancer Mission and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, co-chaired by RTD and SANTE

Most recent updates



The Commission is preparing a Commission **Recommendation on sunbeds** to be adopted in Q1 2024. Evidence gathering and consultation with national experts and stakeholders are ongoing



Development of a **code of conduct** for **cancer survivor access to financial services** is ongoing. Consultation taking place with relevant stakeholders based on existing evidence and practices. Official event to launch the Code is planned on 15 March 2024



Work on the **European Cancer Inequalities Registry data tool** continues. 13 new indicators have been included on cancer incidence attributable to different risk factors



Cancer Plan conference to mark 3 years since adoption of the Cancer Plan will take place on 31st January in Brussels



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PHEG subgroup on mental health

Supports development and implementation of Commission Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, chaired by SANTE

Most recent updates



Implementation plan for the flagship initiatives

This plan will provide the state of play, including the available budget, funding instrument, progress made, expected outcome, etc.



Drafting group to develop EU guidance on stigma and discrimination

First meeting was on 29 November. Finland will co-chair the drafting group together with DG SANTE

Next meeting will be in February 2024

PHEG subgroup on mental health – Implementation Plan

Flagship initiative	Lead DG	Indicative budget	State of play
European Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative	DG SANTE	EUR 11 million	WHO contribution agreement A survey on national needs, challenges and obstacles concluded and draft report being finalised
Children Health 360 – prevention toolkit	DG SANTE	EUR 2 million	UNICEF contribution agreement
Workplace campaigns	DG EMPL	EUR 7 million	First campaign started in October
Initiative for more and better trained professionals in the EU	DG SANTE	EUR 9 million	Currently assessing the proposals received

PHEG subgroup on non-communicable diseases

Revised mandate



Purpose

Support the development of a new comprehensive approach on prevention across the lifespan

Timing: mandate extended until end 2025



Tasks

1. Mapping of current national prevention policies/programmes
2. Advise on identification of potential actions, such as transfer of best and promising practices and pilot testing of approaches
3. Provide input and advice on other topics related to the reduction of NCDs – focus on prevention



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PHEG subgroup on vaccination

Advises on how to support Member States in increasing the uptake of vaccination across the EU in a life-course perspective through the identification, validation and transfer of best and/or promising practices

Most recent updates



The subgroup has been consulted on the preparation of council **recommendations** on **cancer-preventable vaccines** as part of the **prevention package** under the **EU Beating Cancer Plan**



30 March: consulted on upcoming Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers

4 October: vaccine-preventable diseases, including vaccine-preventable cancers, and **vaccine hesitancy** are clear priority areas

- **Exchanging good practices** across Member States is an action that could make a difference



The subgroup also advises on how to **support MSs in increasing the uptake of vaccination** across the EU in a life-course perspective. In this context, the identification, validation and transfer of **best and/or promising practices** is crucial



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PHEG Network of Expertise on Long COVID (NELC)

Most recent updates



Bringing together national centres of expertise to discuss management and treatment of Long COVID patients, the **NELC** aims to identify **gaps, needs,** and **challenges** related to **Long COVID**, and to develop actions to solve these problems



NELC launched a **survey** to (i) provide an overview of individual countries' actions to address the challenges associated with Long COVID; (ii) define the topics the network of expertise should cover; (iii) collect ideas for actions for international cooperation



PHEG is invited to:

- Finalise the identification and nomination of national centres of expertise
- Support the involvement with regards to the survey
- Discuss actions, initiatives and key topics to be tackled by the NELC



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Priority Setting Exercise

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Objective



Identify MS needs and challenges in public health (mandate)



Survey + bilateral meetings



Rolling agenda and tools

2024

- Health promotion and prevention of NCDs

Health, socio-economic, commercial, urban, environmental; mental health

2025 - 2026

- Healthy longevity (lifelong prevention)
- Vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccination
- Infectious diseases (SDG target 3.3; HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, hepatitis)
- Long COVID

Elsewhere

- Health systems, access and quality of care; workforce (Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment)
- AMR (One Health Network, Joint action, etc)

EU4Health 2024 work programme

Adopted on 5 December 2023 - [2024 EU4Health Work Programme \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

Budget: €752.4

Health promotion & Disease Prevention: €70.9 million

Non-communicable and communicable diseases

JOINT ACTIONS

- ❑ Cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers and addressing communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis) (*€20 million*)
- ❑ Health promotion and disease prevention including smoke- and aerosol-free environments (*€16 million*)
- ❑ Promoting a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to mental health to support vulnerable groups (*€6 million*)

ACTION GRANTS

- ❑ Call for **proposals** on health promotion and prevention of NCDs and communicable diseases, including vaccine-preventable and other cancers caused by infections, and on smoke- and aerosol-free environments (*€5 million*)
 - a. NCDs and their risk factors, support to the implementation of the upcoming Commission proposal for a revision of the 2009 Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments
 - b. Vaccination and vaccine-preventable cancers (HPV and HBV), implementation of the upcoming Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers and other cancers caused by infections (HPV, HBV and HCV)
 - c. Communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, viral hepatitis)

- ❑ Call for proposals to support a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to mental health in the Union (*€2 million*)

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS

- ❑ Promoting a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to children's health (**UNICEF**, €2 million)
 - Promote good physical and mental health ('Prevention Toolkit')
- ❑ Health promotion and disease prevention: reducing the burden of NCDs, including cancers caused by infections and vaccine-preventable cancers, and promoting mental health (**OECD**, €3 million)
 - Modelling impact of approaches and practices, knowledge generation and analysis, tailor-made support for MS

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

- ❑ Reducing the burden of disease on public health (€1 million)
 - Support for activities of PHEG on health promotion and prevention of NCDs, including tobacco, mental health and health determinants



Update from Commission services

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Expert group on Public Health

European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

06 December 2023

Call for proposals 2024 [Deadline 11th April 2024]

Destination 3 Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-08-12: Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining the European partnership for pandemic preparedness

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-08-20: Pandemic preparedness and response: Host-pathogen interactions of infectious diseases with epidemic potential

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-09-01: European Partnership: One Health Anti-Microbial Resistance

Destination 5 Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-11-02: Bio-printing of living cells for regenerative medicine

Destination 6 Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health industry

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-IND-06-08: Developing EU methodological frameworks for clinical/performance evaluation and post-market clinical/performance follow-up of medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs)

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-IND-06-09: Gaining experience and confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAM) for regulatory safety and efficacy testing – coordinated training and experience exchange for regulators



Update from the European Investment Bank

EIB's contribution in the fight against Cancer

Focus on EC initiatives



Regular investments by EIB in Cancer Care RDI, Infrastructure and Equipment (100- 250 m EUR/year infrstr +1.2 bn since 2015 in RDI)



Proton Therapy Mapping Study in the EU (Q2/2024 expected). 4 Proton Therapy centres financed by EIB (G, IT, NL,AT).



MoU drafted between EIB and EC's DG Sante on cooperating in global health initiatives incl. fight against Cancer



Awareness raising on EIB financing possibilities in the area of Cancer Care conducted on EC an MS levels



EIB+EC advisory is being prepared for mapping the planned cancer infrastructures in 6 MSs selected by the EC.



European Cancer Organization + EIB local offices jointly liaise with governments to promote HPV vaccination programs (BG, CR so far)



Tour de Table

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A Europe that cares, prepares and protects

Strengthening the EU Health Union



Legislative and non-legislative priorities - EPSCO Health -

- Substances of Human Origin (SoHO)
- European Health Data Space (EHDS)
- Pharmaceutical Legislative package

- Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers
- Recommendation on a smokefree environment
- Council conclusions on the Future of the European Health Union

Political priorities - EPSCO Health -

Policy areas for which EU cooperation should be enhanced during the next legislative term.



A Europe that cares

- Health workforce
- Needs-driven innovation
- Healthy populations



A Europe that prepares

- Preparedness governance
- Clinical trials
- AMR



A Europe that protects

- Security of medicine supplies

+ work on 'implementation tools'

Events - EPSCO Health -

Council meetings

- April 23rd & 24th : Informal EPSCO Health
- June 21st : Formal EPSCO Council Health

High-Level events

- February 7th & 8th : Joint Meeting Chief Medical Officers & Working Party on Public Health at High Level
- March 26th & 27th : High-level Conference on the Future EU Health Union
- April 17th & 18th : High-level Conference on Healthcare needs as drivers for healthcare policy and innovation
- May 8th : High level Conference on Antimicrobial resistance

Other health related events organised by the Belgian Presidency

- January 30st/ 31st : Conference: mental health and work
- March 20th : Informal Team Europe-Africa ministerial event on health in development
- April 25th: Scientific symposium on Nutriscore
- May 2nd & 3rd: Integrating Care, Strengthening Communities: The Data Connection
- May 14th & 15th : Europe united against old and new pandemics
- May 28th & 29th: The Genome Data Infrastructure and Genome of Europe - towards R&I and healthcare of the future



**Thank you
for your participation**